

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE (hereinafter "Agreement") is entered into between the STATE OF CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (hereinafter "ARB") 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814, and ALAMEDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT (hereinafter "ACWD"), 43885 South Grimmer Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94537.

I. RECITALS

- (1) California Health and Safety Code (*H&SC*) Section 44011.6 established the Heavy Duty Vehicle Inspection Program (HDVIP). It authorizes ARB to inspect on-road heavy-duty vehicles for excessive smoke emissions and engine tampering and to issue citations, accordingly. The program also requires the vehicle owner to repair its engines that exceed the prescribed ARB smoke opacity standards, perform post-repair opacity tests, and submit proof of repairs and any assessed penalties under the Regulations of the Heavy-Duty Smoke Inspection Program, Chapter 3.5, Sections 2180-2188, Title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR).
- (2) *H&SC* Section 43701 provides that ARB shall adopt regulations that require owners or operators of heavy-duty diesel motor vehicles to perform regular inspections of their vehicles for excess smoke emissions.
- (3) Title 13, CCR sections 2190 et seq. were adopted under the authority of *H&SC* section 43701 and, with limited exceptions which are not applicable here, apply to all heavy-duty diesel powered vehicles with gross vehicle weight ratings greater than 6,000 pounds which operate on the streets or highways within the State of California.
- (4) Title 13, CCR sections 2190 et seq. authorize the Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP) which requires the owners and operators of California based vehicle fleets of two or more heavy duty diesel motor vehicles with gross vehicle weight ratings greater than 6,000 pounds which operate on the streets or highways within the State of California to conduct annual smoke opacity inspections of their vehicles that are four years older than the model year of the vehicle's engine.
- (5) Title 13, CCR section 2192(a) requires inter alia that the owner of the vehicle "[t]est the vehicle for excessive smoke emissions periodically according to the inspection intervals specified in section 2193(a), (b), and (c)", "[m]easure the smoke emissions for each test...", "[r]ecord the smoke test opacity levels and other required test information as specified in section 2194..." and "[k]eep the records specified in section 2194 for two years after the date of inspection."

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- (6) Health and Safety Code, Sections 39674 (a) and (b) authorize civil penalties for the violation of the programs for the regulation of toxic air contaminants not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) respectively, for each day in which the violation occurs.
- (7) Title 13, CCR sections 2022 and 2022.1 authorizes the Public Agencies and Utilities (PAU) Regulation, which applies to any municipality or utility that owns, leases, or operates on-road diesel-fueled heavy-duty vehicles with a 1960 model-year or newer medium heavy-duty or heavy heavy-duty engine certified to greater than 0.01 grams per brake horsepower-hour (g/bhp-hr) and has a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating greater than 14,000 pounds. Compliance requires BACT installation on each applicable vehicle in its fleet as required by the implementation schedule.
- (8) Under authority of Health and Safety Code section 39600 and 39601, title 13, CCR section 2020 and 2022 et seq. requires Public Agency and Utility fleet owners to use best available control technology on applicable on-road diesel-fueled heavy-duty vehicles. Applicable vehicles have a manufacturers gross vehicle rating greater than 14,000 pounds with a 1960 to 2006 model-year medium heavy-duty or heavy heavy-duty engine or 2007 model-year engine or newer certified to greater than 0.01 grams per brake horsepower-hour particulate emission standard. Records of the installed diesel emission control strategies and corresponding compliance plans must be accessible at the terminal. Each public agency and utility fleet vehicle must have affixed to the driver's side doorjamb, or another readily accessible location known to the driver, a legible and durable label with complete and accurate information filled in.
- (9) ARB contends ACWD failed to install Best Available Control Technology to vehicles in its fleet according to the implementation schedule outlined in title 13, CCR section 2022 et seq.
- (10) ACWD is willing to enter into this Agreement solely for the purpose of settlement and resolution of this matter with ARB. ARB accepts this Agreement in termination of this matter. Accordingly, the parties agree to resolve this matter completely by means of this Agreement, without the need for formal litigation, and therefore agree as follows:

II. TERMS & RELEASE

In consideration of ARB not filing a legal action against ACWD, for the violations alleged above, ARB and ACWD agree as follows:

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- (1) Upon execution of this Agreement, ACWD shall pay a civil penalty of **\$1,000.00**. Payment shall be made in check form as described below and the payments shall be submitted no later than May 23, 2012:

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WATER DISTRICT:

- **\$ 750.00** made out to **California Air Pollution Control Fund**
- **\$ 250.00** made out to **Peralta Community College District**

All payments and documents shall be sent to the attention of:

Mr. Sidney Lau, Air Resources Engineer
Air Resources Board, Enforcement Division
9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4
El Monte, CA 91731

- (2) ACWD shall not violate Health and Safety Code Sections 43701 et seq. and 44011.6, et seq., Title 13, CCR, Sections 2180 et seq., 2190 et seq., and 2485 et seq.
- (3) ACWD shall comply with one or both of the following options to attend the California Council on Diesel Education and Technology (CCDET I) class, (SAE J1667 Snap Acceleration Smoke Test Procedure for Heavy-Duty Diesel Powered Vehicles) as described on the ARB webpage at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/hdvp/ccdet/ccdet.htm>. This class is conducted by various California Community Colleges and instructs attendees on compliance with the PSIP, ECL and the HDVIP.
- (a) ACWD shall have the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) and all staff performing opacity tests for compliance with PSIP and the HDVIP attend the CCDET I class. Proof of CCDET I completion shall be provided to ARB within one year of the date of this Agreement and be maintained in each applicable employee's file for the term of his or her employment.
- (b) If ACWD uses a contractor to perform the annual smoke opacity testing required under the PSIP, in addition to having the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) attend the CCDET I course, ACWD shall obtain proof that the contractor's staff conducting the smoke opacity tests completed the CCDET I course within the past four years. This proof of CCDET I completion shall be provided to ARB with PSIP records as required by this Agreement and be maintained with the annual PSIP records.

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- (4) ACWD shall comply with one or both of the following options to attend the CCDET II class (Diesel Exhaust After Treatment and Maintenance), described on the ARB's webpage <http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/hdvp/ccdet/ccdet.htm>. This class is conducted by various California Community Colleges and instructs attendees on California's emission regulations and the proper care and maintenance of exhaust after treatment systems (EATS).
- (a) ACWD shall have the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) and all staff responsible for maintenance of EATS attend the CCDET II class. Proof of CCDET II completion shall be provided to ARB within one year of the date of this Agreement and also be maintained in each applicable employee's file for the term of his or her employment.
- (b) In case ACWD uses a contractor for the maintenance of EATS, in addition to having the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) attend the CCDET II course, ACWD shall obtain proof that the contractor's staff maintaining the EATS device(s) completed the CCDET II course within the last four years. This proof of the CCDET II completion shall be provided by ACWD to the ARB within one year of the date of this settlement and be maintained with the EATS installation and maintenance records.
- (5) ACWD shall complete Low NOx Software Upgrades (reflash) on all applicable heavy duty diesel engines operating in California no later than 45 days after an engine requiring reflash to comply with ARB emission standards is identified or included in its fleet, and return proof to Mr. Sidney Lau, ARB, Enforcement Division, 9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4, El Monte, CA 91731.
- (6) Each 1974 or newer diesel powered heavy-duty commercial vehicle in ACWD's fleet shall comply with the emission control label (ECL) requirements set forth in the CCR, Title 13, Section 2183(c), within 45 days of this agreement.
- (7) Each PAU vehicle shall comply with the label requirements set forth in title 13, CCR section 2022.1(f)(3) within 30 days of this agreement.
- (8) ACWD shall retrofit PAU vehicles with best available control technology within 30 days of this agreement to meet the implementation schedule specified in title 13 CCR section 2022.1. ACWD will keep the records of the installed diesel control strategy and update the compliance plan accordingly.

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- (9) ACWD shall submit an updated compliance plan demonstrating compliance with the PAU Rule to Mr. Sidney Lau, ARB, Enforcement Division, 9480 Telstar Ave Suite 4, El Monte, CA 91731 or electronically at slau@arb.ca.gov within 45 days of this Agreement.
- (10) ACWD shall instruct all employees who operate diesel fueled commercial vehicles to comply with the idling regulations set forth in CCR, Title 13, Section 2485, within 45 days of this Agreement.
- (11) This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon ACWD, and its officers, directors, receivers, trustees, employees, successors and assignees, subsidiary and parent corporations and upon ARB and any successor agency that may have responsibility for and jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Agreement.
- (12) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between ARB and ACWD, concerning the subject matter hereof, and supersedes and replaces all prior negotiations and agreements between ARB and ACWD, concerning the subject matter hereof.
- (13) No agreement to modify, amend, extend, supersede, terminate, or discharge this Agreement, or any portion thereof, is valid or enforceable unless it is in writing and signed by all parties to this Agreement.
- (14) Severability. Each provision of this Agreement is severable, and in the event that any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement remains in full force and effect.
- (15) This Agreement shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to California's choice-of-law rules.
- (16) This Agreement is deemed to have been drafted equally by the Parties; it will not be interpreted for or against either party on the ground that said party drafted it.
- (17) Now, therefore, in consideration of the payment by ACWD, in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), ARB hereby releases ACWD and its principals, officers, directors, agents, subsidiaries, predecessors, and successors from any and all claims that ARB may have based on the facts and allegations described in recital paragraphs (1) – (9) above. The undersigned represent that they have the authority to enter into this Agreement.

- (18) Senate Bill 1402 (Dutton, Chapter 413, statutes of 2010) requires the ARB to provide information on the basis for the penalties it seeks (see Health and Safety Code section 39619.7). This information, which is provided throughout this settlement agreement, is summarized here.

The manner in which the penalty amount was determined, including a per unit or per vehicle penalty.

Penalties must be set at levels sufficient to discourage violations. The penalties in this matter were determined in consideration of all relevant circumstances, including the eight factors specified in Health and Safety Code sections 42403 and 43024.

Public Agency and Utility Rule Violations

The per vehicle penalty for the Public Agency and Utility Rule violations involved in this case is a maximum of \$1,000 per vehicle per day for strict liability violations or \$10,000 per vehicle per day for negligent or intentional violations. The penalty obtained for the Public Agency and Utility Rule violations for failing to install best available control technology by the implementation deadline in this case is \$1,000, or \$500 per vehicle per violation. The penalty was discounted based on the fact that this was a first time violation and the violator made diligent efforts to comply and to cooperate with the investigation.

The provision of law the penalty is being assessed under and why that provision is most appropriate for that violation.

Public Agency and Utility Violations

The penalty provision being applied for the Public Agencies and Utilities Rule (title 13 CCR section 2022 et seq.) violations is Health and Safety Code section 39674. The Public Agency and Utility Rule is a Toxic Air Contaminant Control Measure adopted pursuant to authority contained in Health and Safety Code Sections 39660 et seq. and because ACWD failed to use best available control technology on 2 vehicles by the implementation deadline as required by the Public Agency and Utility Rule during the years of 2007, 2008, and 2009 over an unspecified number of days.

Is the penalty being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollution at a specified level, and, if so a quantification of excess emissions, if it is practicable to do so.

The provisions cited above do prohibit emissions above a specified opacity or level of g/hp-hr. However, since the hours of operation of the non-

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compliant units involved and their individual emission rate are not known, it is not practicable to quantify the excess emissions.

- (19) ACWD acknowledges that ARB has complied with SB 1402 in prosecuting and settling this case. Specifically, ARB has considered all relevant facts, including those listed at HSC section 43024, has explained the manner in which the penalty amount was calculated, has identified the provision of law under which the penalty is being assessed and has considered and determined that this penalty is being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollutants at a specified level.
- (20) Penalties were determined based on the unique circumstances of this matter, considered together with the need to remove any economic benefit from noncompliance, the goal of deterring future violations and obtaining swift compliance, the consideration of past penalties in similar cases, and the potential costs and risk associated with litigating these particular violations. Penalties in future cases might be smaller or larger on a per unit/vehicle basis.
- (21) The penalty was based on confidential settlement communications between ARB and ACWD that ARB does not retain in the ordinary course of business either. The penalty is the product of an arms length negotiation between ARB and ACWD and reflects ARB's assessment of the relative strength of its case against ACWD, the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden and expense of litigation, obtain swift compliance with the law and remove any unfair advantage that ACWD may have secured from its actions.

California Air Resources Board

By: 

Name: James Ryden

Title: Chief, Enforcement Division

Date: 5/23/12

Alameda County Water District

By: 

Name: Douglas G. Chun

Title: Water Quality & Regulatory
Compliance Manager

Date: May 14, 2012